

THE

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

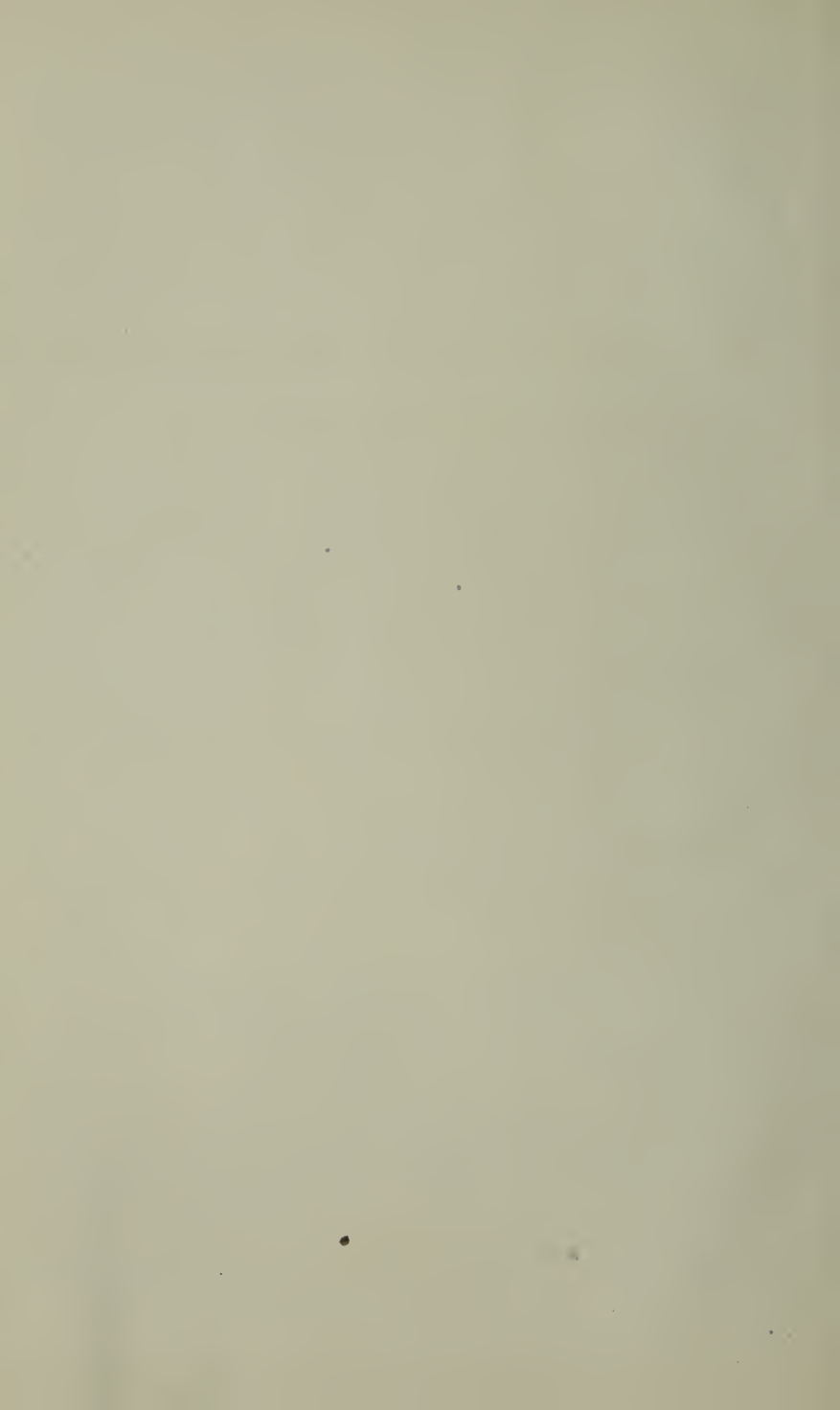
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Urban Sanitary District of

Camborne,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31st,

— 1920. —



To the Chairman and Members of the Camborne Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary Administration of your District for the year 1920.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Population.

The population of your district at the Census in 1911 was as follows :—

Ecclesiastical District.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Camborne ...	3517	4631	8148
Tuckingmill	1582	1952	3534
Treslothan ...	1100	1409	2509
Penponds ...	736	902	1638
	<hr/> 6935	<hr/> 8894	<hr/> 15829

These figures give a total population of 15,829, the average population for the previous fifty years being 14,153.

According to the Registrar-General's returns the estimated total population for 1920 is 14,918. During the war and to the end of 1919 there were two estimated populations, the larger including the total population and the smaller excluding all non-civilian males whether serving at home or abroad, but in 1920 demobilization had reached a stage at which the distinction between the two made during the period when a large part of the male population was under arms might be discontinued, and therefore now only a single estimate of population is shown.

Physical Features and General Character of the District.

Your district has an area of 6,932 acres and an average density of population of 2.28 per acre. A very large proportion of this area, however, is rural in character, so that the density of population would vary considerably in the different localities, being much higher in the town itself and the larger villages.

Your district is chiefly situated on the side of a hill varying in elevation from about 50 to 600 feet above sea level, the fall generally being from south-east to north-west, in which latter direction it extends to the sea coast at the North Cliffs.

The town itself is mainly built on a plateau about 400 feet above sea level, is in the centre of the Tin Mining district, and situated about 12 miles west of Truro.

The soil is loam and the sub-soil clay.

The prevailing winds are chiefly from the West and South-West.

The temperature is mild and fairly equable, but the atmosphere is humid.

Social Conditions.

The population is mainly a working-class one, the chief occupations of the inhabitants being Tin Mining and Tin Streaming, Rock Drill Manufacturing, Iron Engineering, and Safety Fuse making, female labour being mostly engaged in this latter industry.

At the census in 1911 there were :—

	Males.	Females.
Under 15 years of age	2285	2239
Between 15 and 55 years of age ...	4014	5219
„ 55 and 65 „ „ ...	364	645
„ 65 and 85 „ „ ...	264	752
„ 85 and 95 „ „ ...	8	37
„ 95 and 100 „ „ ...	—	2

	Males.	Females.
There were 9,094 Unmarried Persons ...	4,327	4,767
„ „ 5,336 Married Persons ...	2,469	2,867
„ „ 1,399 Widowed	139	1,260

Of the grouped occupations of Males aged 10 years and upwards there were 4,467 engaged in occupations and 912 retired or unoccupied.

Of those occupied :—

248 were engaged in Agriculture.

1,643 in Tin Mines and Tin Streams.

640 in General Engineering and Machine making.

Of the grouped occupations of Females aged 10 years and upwards there were 2,052 engaged in occupations, 537 of these being employed on domestic service, 51 engaged in Agriculture, 382 in Safety Fuse Works, 353 in Shops, and 282 as Dressmakers, Milliners and Tailoresses.

Classification of Buildings.

In 1911 there were 3,844 Buildings used as Dwellings, and of these 3,634 were ordinary Dwelling Houses, 176 were Shops, 21 Hotels, Inns and Public Houses, and 13 others. There were also 173 Buildings not used as Dwellings. The average number of persons per inhabited dwelling was 4.12.

The number of families per house were classified as follows :—

	6 Families of 1 in 1 Room.
	1 Family of 2 „ 1 „
108	Families of 1 „ 2 Rooms.
106	„ 2 „ 2 „
103	„ 3 „ 2 „
32	„ 4 „ 2 „
22	„ 5 „ 2 „
7	„ 6 „ 2 „
4	„ 7 „ 2 „
1	„ 11 „ 2 „
44	„ 1 „ 3 „
130	„ 2 „ 3 „
133	„ 3 „ 3 „
101	„ 4 „ 3 „
60	„ 5 „ 3 „
36	„ 6 „ 3 „
15	„ 7 „ 3 „
11	„ 8 „ 3 „
1	„ 9 „ 3 „
1	„ 10 „ 3 „

In addition to these there were :—

1005	Families living in 4 Roomed Houses.
801	„ „ 5 „ „
659	„ „ 6 „ „
212	„ „ 7 „ „
127	„ „ 8 „ „
83	„ „ 9 „ „
83	„ „ 10 „ „ and upward

A total of 3,892 Private Families living in 3,844 Buildings used as dwellings, and of these there were 78 Houses with more than two occupants to one room, with a total population of 572.

The number of Dwelling Houses at the end of 1920 was 3,807, giving an average of 3.9 per inhabited house, as compared with 3,811 at the end of 1919.

Towards the latter part of 1920, owing to the general depression in trade, the low price of Tin and the exorbitant cost of Coal and other materials, practically none of the Tin Mines or Tin Streams could work at a profit, and this necessitated the discharges of a number of employees, and later the temporary suspension of operations at Dolcoath and Grenville Mines, both situated in your district. Many of the younger men emigrated to Canada, South Africa and America, but a larger number, and particularly the older men, went to swell the ranks of the unemployed. This great depression in trade also resulted in the discharge of a number of men from the Engineering works, and of women from the Safety Fuse factories.

Owing to this altered condition of things the census returns of 1911 as to grouped occupations of males and females in your district are far from accurate for the year under review.

Vital Statistics—Births.

The total number of births registered during the year were 356—185 males and 171 females, of which 19 (10 males and 9 females), or 5.3 per cent., were illegitimate.

These give a Birth Rate of 23.86 per 1,000 as compared with a Birth Rate of 17.53 for 1919 and 15.32 for 1918.

The average Birth Rate for the ten years previous to 1920 was 21.17, and for the ten years previous to the war it was 24.20.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 25.4 per 1,000 as compared with 18.5 for 1919 and 17.7 for 1918.

Illegitimate Births.

The total number of Illegitimate Births registered during the year was 19 (10 males and 9 females), giving an Illegitimate Birth Rate of 1.27 per 1,000, and a proportion of 53 per 1,000 Births as compared with a rate of 1.07 per 1,000 and a proportion of 61 per 1,000 Births for 1919.

Deaths.

The deaths of 83 Males and 123 Females were registered during the year, making a total of 206. These returns give a Death Rate of 13.80 per 1,000 as compared with a Death Rate of 16.80 for 1919 and 18.11 for 1918.

The average Death Rate for the ten years previous to 1920 was 16.79, and for the ten years previous to the war it was 15.67.

The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 12.4, as compared with 13.8 for 1919 and 17.6 for 1918.

The principal causes of death in your district are set out in the following table :—

Causes of death.				Males.	Females.	Total.
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	1	1	2
Diphtheria and Croup	...	...	...	—	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	...	15	6	21
Tuberculous Meningitis	...	...	...	1	4	5
Other Tuberculous Diseases	...	...	...	—	2	2
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...	...	...	2	19	21
Organic Heart Disease	...	...	...	12	26	38
Bronchitis	...	...	...	5	6	11
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	4	2	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	...	...	...	—	1	1
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	1	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	—	1	1
Nephritis and Brights Disease	...	...	...	3	1	4
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	—	1	1
Parturition apart from Puerperal						
Fever	...	...	...	—	2	2
Congenital Debility	...	..	...	6	3	9
Violence apart from Suicide	...	...	...	5	—	5
Suicide	...	...	...	1	—	1
Other Defined Diseases	...	...	...	27	46	73

The various ages at death were as follows:—

Under 1 year	...	24
Between 1 and 5	...	5
„ 5	„ 15	2
„ 15	„ 25	6
„ 25	„ 35	9
„ 35	„ 45	14
„ 45	„ 55	29
„ 55	„ 65	33
„ 65	„ 75	33
„ 75	„ 85	43
„ 85	„ 95	8

Natural Increase.

The natural increase of population is 106, as compared with 21 for 1919, and a Decrease of 14 and 1 respectively for 1918 and 1917. In 1916 the natural Increase was 65.

Infantile Mortality.

The deaths of 24 infants under one year of age (16 males and 8 females) were registered during the year, and of these two were illegitimate, both males.

These returns give an Infantile Mortality Rate of 67 per 1,000 Births as compared with 80 for 1919, 121 for 1918, and 67 for 1917.

It will be observed that the Rates for 1920 and 1917 are the same, and are the lowest of which I have any record.

The average rate for the ten years previous to 1920 was 112 per 1,000 Births, as set out in the following table:—

Date.	Infantile Mortality Rate per 1000 Births.
1910	138
1911	175
1912	130
1913	111
1914	99
1915	87
1916	118
1917	67
1918	121
1919	80

This fortunate lowering of the Infantile Mortality Rate in your district is without doubt due to the greater care exercised by mothers in the feeding and rearing of their infants. Their education in these matters and in the prevention and treatment of infantile diseases is carried out by the Health Visitors appointed under the Notification of Births Act (administered by the County Council), materially aided by the efforts of the Voluntary Infant Welfare Centre established in your town.

The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1920 was 80 per 1,000 Births, as compared with 89 for 1919 and 97 for both 1918 and 1917.

The various ages at death in your district were as follows:—

Under 1 day	...	3
„ 1 week	...	4
„ 2 weeks	...	2
„ 3 weeks	...	1
„ 4 weeks	...	2
„ 2 months	...	4
„ 3 months	...	2
„ 5 months	...	2
„ 8 months	...	1
„ 9 months	...	1
„ 12 months	...	2

—
24

The various causes of death were as follows:—

Prematurity	...	...	6
Convulsions	...	...	5
Bronchitis and Broncho-Pneumonia	...	...	5
Diphtheria	...	...	1
Congenital Heart Disease	...	...	1
Gastric Catarrh	...	...	1
Marasmus	...	...	1
Whooping Cough	...	...	1
Infective Enteritis	...	...	1
Abscess of Breast	...	...	1
Suffocating after Vomiting	...	...	1

Zymotic Death Rate.

Two deaths from Diphtheria, two from Whooping Cough, and one from Diarrhoea give a Death Rate from Zymotic Diseases of 0.33 per 1,000 as compared with a rate of 0.90 for 1919 and 1.14 for 1918.

Inquest Cases.

There were 12 Inquest Cases during the year, the same number as for the previous year. Of these seven were due to Natural Causes, four to Accidents, and one was a case of Suicide. Of the deaths due to Accidents, one was caused by a fall of ground at North Roskear Burrows, one was due to accidental scalds, one to Hæmorrhage from a burst Varicose Vein, and one to Suffocation after vomiting.

Tubercular Diseases.

There were 24 cases of Tubercular Diseases notified during the year, as compared with 28 for 1919 and 154 for 1918.

Of these cases the Lungs were affected in 17 (11 males and 6 females), and 7 of these were miners.

The Meninges were affected in two cases, the Cervical Glands in three, the Intestines in one, and the Hip Joint in one.

There were 28 deaths from Tubercular Diseases, giving a Death Rate of 1.87 per 1,000, as compared with 2.37 for 1919 and 3.70 for 1918.

From Pulmonary Tuberculosis (Phthisis) alone there were 21 Deaths—15 males and 6 females, giving a Death Rate of 1.40 per 1,000 and a percentage of 10.1 of the total deaths as compared with a Rate of 1.95 per 1,000 and a percentage of 11.6 of the total deaths for 1919.

The following table gives the Death Rates and percentages of total Deaths from Phthisis for the ten years previous to 1920 :—

Date.	No. of Deaths.	Rate per 1,000	Percentage of	
			Total Deaths.	
1910	... 45	... 3.05	... 18.14	
1911	... 32	... 2.02	... 12.69	
1912	... 32	... 2.21	... 16.36	
1913	... 49	... 3.09	... 18.49	
1914	... 34	... 2.15	... 11.72	
1915	... 34	... 2.07	... 14.65	
1916	... 45	... 3.11	... 16.54	
1917	... 34	... 2.28	... 12.64	
1918	... 45	... 3.03	... 16.72	
1919	... 28	... 1.95	... 11.6	

Of the deaths in 1920, six were in Tin Miners, one in a Tin and Gold Miner, and one in a Gold Miner, the average age at death being 49. This number of deaths from Phthisis in Miners is the same as for 1918, and these two are the lowest of which I have any record. I can only repeat what I have stated in previous reports, that if every precaution is taken against the avoidable danger of dust inhalation combined with adequate ventilation, metalliferous mining in Cornwall should be a perfectly healthy occupation.

Of the remaining deaths from Tubercular Diseases, five were from Tuberculous Meningitis, one from Tuberculous Peritonitis, and one from Tuberculous Pleurisy secondary to Lupus.

Poor Law Relief.

The amount of Poor Law Relief for 1920 in money and kind was £4,023 3s. 10d., as compared with £2,862 13s. 6d. for 1919.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

Water.

The town itself, including Tuckingmill, together with the villages of Beacon, Treswithian and Kehelland, and part of Pengegon, are supplied with water from The Camborne Water Company, there being now 3,037 customers in your district. Portions of the adjoining parishes of Illogan and Crowan are also supplied with water from this Company, which was formed in 1867.

The Camborne Water Co.'s supply comes from two separate sources. Cargenwyn and Boswyn, and the watersheds of the whole of the former and part of the latter are in the parish of Crowan, in the Helston Rural District. The supply is derived entirely from springs, and all the water is filtered before delivery, and during the year the supply has been constant.

There are three reservoirs at Cargenwyn, the total storage capacity being 34 million gallons, and at Boswyn there are one reservoir and one storage tank, the total storage capacity being seven million gallons. There is also a ferro-concrete town service reservoir of one million gallons capacity at Kitty's Lane.

The two supplies from Cargenwyn and Boswyn are piped separately to Boteto Bridge, at the boundary of your district, and here they join into one main, which carries the supply to your district and that of Illogan.

All surface and bye-wash waters are excluded from the Reservoirs, and frequent analyses show the water to be of excellent quality, eminently suitable for drinking purposes, and free from any evidence of pollution with sewage or animal excreta.

The water is liable to plumbo-solvent action, but lead pipes are forbidden to be used by the Water Company, and I am not aware of any contamination of the water by lead, nor have any cases of lead poisoning been brought to my notice during the year.

Four houses have been supplied with water from the Water Company's main, and 18 houses have had new services installed.

The village of Troon and the adjoining hamlet of Croft Common have a constant and abundant free supply of excellent drinking water from a deep adit.

Croft Mitchell, Bolenowe, Roscroggan, Rosewarne Downs and part of Pengegon are supplied with water from wells, and the villages of Barripper and Penponds are supplied with water from deep wells and adits, the latter being piped for a short distance into "shoots." These villages could easily be fed from the Camborne Water Co.'s supplies, and it is to be hoped that they will see their way to carry out this extension when the cost of such is less prohibitive.

The village of Condurrow is supplied with water from shallow wells, some situated at considerable distances from the houses. This village is badly in need of a better water supply, but it is understood that there are engineering difficulties which prevent the Camborne Water Co. extending their mains to this village from Beacon. During the year the adits at Troon and Bolenowe and Bastion's Well at Rosewarne Downs have been repaired and cleansed.

Rivers and Streams.

Streams in your district situated near the sewage outfalls at Troon, Tuckingmill and Barripper are polluted by the discharge of sewage into them after passing through the settling tanks and without any preliminary filtration. There are no rivers in your district

Drainage and Sewerage.

Your existing works of Sewerage and Sewage Disposal were constructed about the year 1878. The public sewers are constructed chiefly of 9-inch and 6-inch sanitary pipes, and are laid on the combined system, the same sewers receiving both sewage and storm water, and taken to five

different outfalls at Rosewarne, College Row, Tuckingmill, Troon and Barripper. Upon its arrival at the outfalls the sewage is received into settling tanks through which it passes on the continual flow principle. There are no filtration beds at any of the outfalls. These tanks are generally in a very unsatisfactory condition, full of sludge and silt, and are attended to in a most haphazard way by the person detailed to look after them.

In 1908, as a temporary measure, new detritus tanks were constructed at the Rosewarne sewage outfall, and after preliminary treatment in these tanks the sewage flows through channels over the land, finally discharging into the "Red River" at Reskadinnick Mill, as also does the effluent from the College Row outfall.

At Troon and Barripper the effluent, after passing through the settling tanks, discharges into small streams near, and at Tuckingmill, the effluent discharges into the Tin Stream.

The outfalls do not receive the whole of the sewage of your district. Many parts of the town, such as Hughville Street, Higher Enys Road, King's Road, Park Road, Wheal Gurry, North Roskear Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Cadogan Terrace, and portions of Roskear Row, Treswithian Terrace, and College Street, together with the villages of Beacon, Condurrow, Bolenowe, Penponds, Kehelland, and parts of Pengegon and Troon have no form of drainage and are excluded from the general system.

I am sure you are all anxious to remedy the present unsatisfactory condition of your sewerage and methods of sewage disposal to which I have called your attention for many years past, and also to the necessity of extending your drainage to those parts of your district which I have just specified. Though you realise your responsibility in this matter, and all agree as to the advisability of something definite being done, I quite recognise your hesitation in placing further financial burdens on the ratepayers in times of such great depression as those through which we

are now passing. Rates are high and will mount still higher for a time, because the rateable value of your district has seriously decreased, and may decrease still further seeing that some of the largest ratepayers, such as the Tin Mines, have ceased to carry on operations, and many of the ratepayers, through being unemployed, are unable to pay the rates already demanded of them. The estimated cost of the Sewage Disposal Scheme which you adopted after consultation with the ratepayers in 1911, and which was sanctioned by the Local Government Board in 1912, and no doubt would have been carried out if not stopped by the war, is now from £60,000 to £70,000, and unless towards this you can receive substantial Government grants so as, at any rate, to reduce the cost to this district to pre-war level, I quite understand your unwillingness to further proceed with the matter at present. I am sure that this unwillingness and hesitation on your part are not from any desire to postpone the work because you do not see the advisability or necessity of its being done, and I quite believe you will all agree to the carrying out of the work when the industrial conditions in the district have become normal again.

Closet Accommodation.

Unfortunately many houses in the more populous parts of the town are still without water closets, although the main sewers are within the required distance. In addition to these all those parts of your district where extension of existing sewers or the provision of new sewers are necessary, as well as the villages of Troon, Beacon, Condurrow, Bolenowe, Knave-go-bye, Barripper, Penponds, Treswithian, Kehelland, Brea and Pengegon, and outlying groups of houses and single houses in the purely rural portions are provided with privies. There are approximately 1,699 water closets, 48 pail closets, and 2,060 privies in your district. Since 1916 the number of privies or pail closets converted into water-closets is 199, and 103 of these have been provided during the past year. In most of the

villages mentioned above, even where sewers exist, there is no water supply laid on to the houses, and in these cases the privies are likely to remain, but you should insist that they are re-constructed in strict accordance with your Bye-laws relating thereto, so that the evils arising therefrom are reduced to a minimum. If your Bye-laws were strictly adhered to the large privy pits, often uncovered, generally uncemented, and containing large accumulations of excreta and other refuse, giving off most offensive odours, particularly in the summer months, would be done away with. Unfortunately many of these are in close proximity to dwellings, and are bound to be detrimental to the general health of those living in their vicinity.

I am pleased to note the increasing number of privies which are being converted into water closets, and this policy should be systematically adhered to during the coming year so that in every case where the sewers are present and water is available for flushing, the provision of water closets should be insisted on. As I have mentioned in previous reports, one of the main difficulties in the past in carrying out this much-needed improvement is due to the fact that many of the older houses are held on the iniquitous life tenure system, and often there is only one old life remaining on the property. Added to this there is the high cost of materials generally.

However, being as you are, largely responsible for the Public Health of your district, it is your duty to see that everything possible is done to improve the general well-being of the inhabitants, and not to allow any question of sentiment to deter you in carrying out the sanitary improvements necessary to this end.

At present in all cases where the necessary facilities exist, you require all new dwelling-houses, and also all existing dwelling-houses, when plans for structural alterations are presented, to be provided with water closets, and in other cases where the required conditions are likely to be present later on you only sanction the erecting of privies temporarily, to be replaced by water closets afterwards.

Unfortunately in many of the populous parts of your town this much-needed improvement cannot be carried out because there are no sewers near, and this is an additional reason, if any were needed, for the extension of your sewers to these parts.

Scavenging.

Three men are constantly employed in the cleansing of privies, whilst two men are employed six days, and one man two days per week, in the removal of refuse from movable receptacles.

The number of houses where movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles since 1916 is approximately 229, 103 of these being done during the past year.

The majority of these are unprovided with proper coverings, and as they generally contain decomposing animal and vegetable matter, giving off offensive odours, particularly in the hot weather, and are kept close to dwellings, they are bound to be insanitary whilst so uncovered. Moreover, they are a favourite haunt for flies, which carry infection from them to food stored in the homes or exposed for sale. In the interests of Public Health I must again urge upon your Council the necessity of insisting that proper covers are provided in all cases.

With this end in view, leaflets might be distributed to all householders calling upon them to do this, and also drawing their attention to the advisability of burning all combustible refuse instead of throwing it into the receptacles or privy pits, or into their gardens, as seems the general custom at present.

Cesspools are emptied periodically by the employees of your Council at the request of the owners, and generally into the gardens and covered over with earth. 7,828 loads of refuse have been removed from the vicinity of dwellings during the year. This refuse is removed to two dépôts—one at North Roskear, about 100 yards away from the nearest house, where the refuse is covered with earth; and

one at College Street, about two hundred yards away from the nearest house, where the refuse is roughly sorted and the combustible part burnt. Farmers purchase the refuse manure at so much a load.

Sanitary Inspection of District.

Number of premises inspected 1220

Number of premises re-inspected 557

Defect or nuisances discovered :—

Most of the defects found were due to faulty construction, want of proper eaves gutters, want of proper means of disposal of foul water, and the want of water closets. Special attention has continued to be given to the abolition of privies in the Town area, with the result that 103 Water Closets have been provided during the year.

Action taken :—

Preliminary Notices served 207

Letters written 133

Notices complied with 63

Notices partly complied with at Dec. 31st, 1920 36

Work in hand 14

Statutory notices served 40

Statutory notices complied with 29

Work in hand 2

Work not started 9

Prosecutions under Sect. 94 Public Health Act, 1875 3

Prosecutions under Sect. 22 Public Health Acts,

Amendment Act, 1890 1

Result of Action taken :—

Rooms cleansed 9

Roofs repaired 3

Floors repaired 3

Walls, external repaired 2

Eavesgutter provided or repaired 14

Bell Traps, etc., removed 5

Gullies removed to open air 9

Water Closets provided 103

Defective Water Closets repaired	...	...	5
Pail Closets provided	...	...	2
Obstructed Drains cleared	...	...	6
Drains repaired after testing	...	...	5
Drainage for rain-water provided	...	...	8
Drainage for foul water provided	...	...	8
Workshops cleansed	...	...	2
Water laid on	...	...	4
Water service re-laid	...	...	18
Rooms disinfected	...	...	175
Bedding removed for disinfection	...	...	51

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Common Lodging Houses.

There is only one Common Lodging House in your district, situated in Vyvyan's Row. This was built in 1914, and has accommodation for 44 men. It has been frequently inspected, and the owner's attention was called to the need of limewashing of the kitchen and common room, and this has been attended to. No case of infectious disease has been notified to me from this house during the year, and the Bye-laws relating thereto are complied with. The two old Lodging Houses in Trelowarren Street are now under re-construction as shops.

There are no underground sleeping rooms in your district.

Offensive Trades.

There are two offensive Trades carried on in your district, viz. :—

1.—Tallow Melting at Stray Park.

2.—The Hide and Skin Market at North Road Quarry.

There have been no complaints as regards the former during the year, and the latter is kept in a much more satisfactory condition. The store for raw bones is now regularly used, and the bones are sent away by rail weekly.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS REQUIRING NOTICE.

Accommodation Lanes.

Some improvement as to the deposit of refuse in these lanes has been noticed, but there is still much room for improvement, especially as to drainage and repair.

Public Urinals and Lavatories.

There are only two public urinals in your district, and both situated fairly near one another. In my opinion more accommodation is necessary, particularly at the North-Eastern end of the town and at Tuckingmill, and Public Water Closets are also badly needed, those at the Railway Station being the only ones available. There is no Public Lavatory for the Female sex, and this also is badly needed.

Schools.

There are eight public Elementary Schools and one Secondary School in your district. The Elementary Schools have been frequently inspected during the year, and on the whole their sanitary condition has been found satisfactory.

The attention of the Education Authority was drawn to the unsatisfactory condition of the sanitary conveniences at Troon, and to the insufficient ventilation of a classroom at Roskear. Both of these have been remedied.

The attention of the Education Authority should be drawn to the advisability of providing "Bubble-jet" drinking fountains, similar to the one in use in the Infants' Department at Basset Road Schools, in all the other schools where water is laid on. This would do away with the dangerous and insanitary habit of children using the common drinking cups now provided, thus running the distinct risk of conveying infection from one to another.

Their attention should also again be called to the want of a proper water supply at Penponds Schools.

The Girls' and Infants' Departments at Roskear School were closed during March on account of the prevalence of Diphtheria amongst the scholars. The duties of the Medical Inspection of children attending the public Elementary Schools are carried out by whole-time Medical Officers appointed by the County Council, who act under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health for the County.

FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

I have received no complaints as to the wholesomeness of the milk produced or imported into the district, and the arrangements for its supply and distribution are adequate.

The only difficulty in obtaining milk has been the high prices still ruling, and which necessarily prevent the poorer inhabitants obtaining the same quantity they had previously been accustomed to.

There are 52 registered Cowkeepers in your district, and of these 23 are also Dairymen and 9 are purveyors of Milk.

There are also 5 registered Dairymen and Purveyors, and 7 Purveyors.

I must again repeat what I have frequently stated in my previous reports, that the sanitary conditions of many of the cowsheds in your district are most unsatisfactory both as regards cleanliness and sufficient ventilation. Improvements have been effected at two cowsheds in the district during the year, and the attention of owners of other cowsheds have been called to their unsatisfactory condition. The remedying of these should be insisted on by your Council, particularly as to the provision of impervious paving and proper drainage, as well as additional light and ventilation. The excuses for not carrying out these improvements promptly have been the high cost of materials, especially cement.

The paramount importance of ensuring a pure and wholesome milk supply must be obvious to you all, and as a means of obtaining this the regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Orders of 1885 and 1899 should be enforced by young Council. No action has been taken during the year as to tuberculous milk, and there is no veterinary inspection of the cows in your district.

Milk (Mothers and Children) Order, 1919.

This Order is administered by the County Council, and I have assisted the County Medical Officer of Health in carrying out the provisions of this Order in your district during the year.

(b) Meat.

(1) MEAT INSPECTION.

Eighty-four carcasses have been inspected at the Slaughter Houses. Your Sanitary Inspector is a certified Meat Inspector, but it is quite impossible for him to inspect all the animals slaughtered in the district, or to inspect all meat sold, as a large proportion is sold from travelling vans which go from door to door.

(2) DISEASE IN MEAT.

The parts of four carcasses have been surrendered on account of tuberculous disease.

(3) SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 10 Slaughter Houses in your district used under a yearly licence from your Council. Their sanitary condition is fairly satisfactory. 113 inspections were made during the year, and many of these during the time of slaughter. No public abbatoir has been established in your district, and until this is done it is impossible to arrange for an adequate inspection of all meat intended for human consumption and all animals intended for slaughter, so as to effectively protect the public against unwholesome or diseased meat. This should be made compulsory.

Many of the animals intended for human consumption in your district are slaughtered in other districts, and over these slaughter houses you have no control.

(4) No action has been taken during the year under Section 117 of the Public Health Act, 1875.

Number of Slaughter Houses in use in the district :—

		In 1914.	In Jan., 1920.	In Dec., 1920.
Licensed	...	11	9	10

(c) Other Foods.

UNSOUND FOOD & FOOD INSPECTION.

One hundred and sixty-nine inspections have been made of premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale, and the premises generally are kept clean. No seizures of food have been made.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 9 Bakehouses registered in your district. These have been frequently inspected and found satisfactory.

(d) Food Poisoning.

No cases of food poisoning in your district have been brought to my notice during the year.

(e) Sale of Food and Drugs Acts.

Your Council is not a local authority under the Sale of Food and Drugs Acts, which are administered by the County Council.

I am indebted to the Superintendent of Police for the East Penwith Division for the following information :—

Fourteen samples of Food were taken and analysed in your district during the year, and of these four were samples of milk. All were found to be genuine.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diphtheria.

This disease was endemic in your district during the whole of the year, being epidemic in character from January to May.

One hundred and forty-seven cases were notified, giving a Disease Rate of 9.8 per 1,000, as compared with 154 cases and a Disease Rate of 10.7 for 1919.

There were only two deaths from this disease, one in a child of 6 years and the other in an infant of 8 months, giving a Death Rate of 0.13 per 1,000, as compared with 9 deaths and a Death Rate of 0.62 for 1919.

The cases were notified as follows :—

January	...	...	33 cases.
February	...	...	26 „
March	...	...	24 „
April	...	...	13 „
May	...	...	16 „
June	...	...	8 „
July	...	...	6 „
August	...	...	1 „
September	...	...	6 „
October	...	...	6 „
November	...	...	3 „
December	...	...	5 „

Sixty-five of the cases were in different streets in the Town area, 14 of these in Dolcoath Avenue, and there were 23 cases at Beacon, 13 at Tuckingmill, 12 at Troon, 9 at Pengegon, 4 at Carn Entral, 3 each at Bolenowe and Condurrow, and 2 each at Brea and Penponds.

The following table is a summary of cases attending schools :—

Roskear Elementary School	53 cases.
Bassett Road Elementary School	21 „
Beacon Elementary School	14 „
Troon Elementary School	10 „
College Road Elementary School	4 „
Penponds Elementary School	1 „
County School	3 „
Private School	1 „
Of School age but from away	2 „
<hr/>	
109 cases.	

A great majority of the cases were mild in type, and the diagnosis was confirmed in every case by bacteriological examination of a throat swab, and practically every case was treated with Diphtheria Antitoxin, which is supplied free by your authority. Fifteen cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital. In all the houses where Diphtheria cases were notified all the children were excluded from attendance at school, and the infected children for some weeks after convalescence

The infected rooms were disinfected by spraying with Formalin, and in many cases the bedding was also disinfected at the Steam Disinfector. I frequently inspected the children at the various Elementary Schools with a view of excluding from attendance all with suspicious sore throats.

Probably the infection was conveyed in many instances by "carriers," and these cases are very difficult to detect, for their throats, on inspection, may appear quite healthy.

Scarlet Fever.

Twenty-two cases were notified during the year, giving a Disease Rate of 1.4 per 1,000, as compared with 46 cases and a Disease Rate of 3.2 for 1919. The cases were all very mild in type, and there was no death registered from

this disease. There were 4 cases at North Roskear, 2 at Kehelland, 1 at Treswithian Downs, and the others in different streets of the town, and they were notified as follows :—

January	...	...	...	6 cases.
February	...	...	...	3 „
March	...	...	...	1 „
April	...	...	...	1 „
May	...	...	...	3 „
June	...	...	...	1 „
July	...	...	...	2 „
October	...	...	...	2 „
November	...	...	...	3 „

The source of infection could not be definitely traced in either case.

The infected rooms and bedding were disinfected in every case, and all children from the infected homes excluded from school during the period of infection.

As far as I can ascertain, there were no “return” cases.

Typhoid Fever.

One case was notified at Pengegon in July, giving a Disease Rate of 0.06 per 1,000, as compared with 5 cases and a Disease Rate of 0.34 for 1919.

The cause of infection could not be determined.

Whooping Cough.

There were a few cases of this disease, and two deaths were registered from this cause, one a child 2 years of age in August, and one an infant of 21 days in December.

Erysipelas.

Eleven cases were notified during the year, 9 females and 2 males. There was no death from this disease.

Malaria.

Seven cases were notified during the year as follows :— One in January, two in February, one in April, two in May, and one in September.

These cases were all in returned soldiers, the disease being contracted in the East.

Dysentery and Trench Fever.

No case of either of these diseases was notified during the year.

Chicken Pox.

Five cases were notified during the year as follows :— Two in May and three in June.

Influenza.

Your district was practically free from this disease during the year, and there was no death registered from this cause.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

No case of this disease was notified during the year.

Locally Contracted Anthrax or Rabies.

No case of either of these diseases has been brought to my notice during the year.

Small Pox.

No case of this disease has occurred in your district for many years past, and I have not performed any primary vaccinations or re-vaccinations under the Public Health (Small Pox Prevention) Regulations of 1917.

Vaccination.

During 1919 the latest period for which I can obtain complete returns, of 260 children born in your district, only 102, or 39 per cent., were successfully vaccinated as compared with 34 per cent. in 1918, 38 per cent. in 1917, and 50 per cent. in 1916. Seventeen died unvaccinated, 17 were postponed or had removed to other districts, and 124 were exempted.

Notifications of Tuberculosis.

As far as I am aware, the requirements as to notification of Tuberculosis are observed by Medical Practitioners, and no special action has had to be taken to enforce the regulations and secure prompt notification.

Verminous Persons.

There are no special facilities available in the district for the cleansing and disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings, nor has any particular need arisen for such.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Midwives Acts, 1902 and 1918.

The County Council is the supervisory authority under these Acts.

Maternity and Child Welfare Schemes.

The County Council are the local authority for carrying out these schemes.

There is a voluntary Infant Welfare Centre in your town, but I have no official connection with the same. I am indebted to the Honorary Secretary (Mrs. Hooper) for the following particulars regarding this Centre :—

During the past year the Welfare has developed very satisfactorily, and there are now over 100 names on the books, and the weekly attendance averages from 35-40 mothers with from 40-50 children. There are weekly consultations under the Medical Officer, and fortnightly Health Talks by a Health Visitor from Truro, and a class for expectant mothers is held twice a month. A Dental Surgeon attends once a month to give dental treatment to any mothers or children who require it.

There is a Thrift Club in connection with the Centre, and also a Dressmaking class, which aims at making infants' garments on hygienic lines, the materials for the same being for sale at cost price.

The Ministry of Health Inspector visited the Centre in February last and reported favourably on the satisfactory results achieved.

Puerperal Fever.

One case of Puerperal Fever which proved fatal was notified in March. No other cases of infectious diseases of parturient women were notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Three cases of this disease were notified during the year, one in January, one in April, and one in June. All the cases recovered without any permanent injury to either eye.

Epidemic Diarrhœa.

The district was free from this disease during the year.

Poliomyelitis.

No case of this disease was notified during the year.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

1.—Staff.

You have one Sanitary Inspector who is also Inspector of Nuisances. He holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Inspector of Nuisances and Inspector of Meat and other Foods, as well as certificates in Building Construction. In addition to his general duties of inspection he has to superintend the Scavenging and Disposal of Refuse, and has charge of the sewers and outfalls, is responsible for the removal of patients to the Isolation Hospital, and for the disinfection of infected houses.

I must again suggest to you the advisability of your appointing someone to assist him in the clerical work in his office, so that he can devote more time to duties of greater importance.

2.—Hospital Accommodation.

Your Isolation Hospital is a detached private house standing in its own grounds, and situated in College Street. It has eight beds in three wards, but only one infectious disease can be treated at one and the same time.

A permanent Caretaker and his wife reside on the premises, and the latter helps in the nursing of patients, a trained nurse being obtained from one of the Nursing Institutions in the neighbourhood as and when required. The Hospital is always in readiness in cases of emergency, and was used during the year as follows:—

- Case A.—February 10th to March 1st.
- „ B.—February 12th to March 1st.
- „ C.—February 13th to March 1st.
- „ D.—March 2nd to March 23rd.
- „ E.—March 19th to April 17th.
- „ F.—March 23rd to April 17th.
- „ G.—April 11th to May 1st.
- „ H.—May 13th to June 7th.
- „ I.—May 13th to June 7th.
- „ J.—May 19th to June 7th.
- „ K.—July 8th to August 10th.
- „ M.—September 11th to October 10th.
- „ N.—October 4th to November 11th
- „ O.—October 18th to November 10th.

These were all cases of Diphtheria.

There is a public mortuary and post-mortem room in a separate building near the Hospital. There is also a horse ambulance only used for infectious diseases and jointly with the Redruth Urban and Rural Districts, you possess a Steam Disinfector at West Tolgus, in the Redruth Rural District.

3.—Adoptive Acts.

The following Acts have been adopted by your Council :—

- (a) The Infectious Diseases Prevention Act of 1890.
- (b) The Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1890.
- (c) The Private Street Works Act of 1892.

Two Statutory Notices were served under Section 22 of the Public Health Acts Amendment Act of 1890. In one instance the work was carried out on the service of notice, but in the other case proceedings had to be taken to compel the carrying out of the work.

4.—Bye-Laws.

The following Bye-laws are in existence for the whole of your district :—

- New Streets and Buildings.
- Common Lodging Houses.
- Public Wash-Houses.
- Slaughter Houses
- Nuisances.
- Hackney Carriages.

These were adopted in 1886 and were revised by a joint Sanitary and General Purposes Committee in 1910, but no further steps were taken in the matter.

They should be brought up to date and their provisions strictly enforced.

5.—Prosecutions.

Legal proceedings under Section 94 of the Public Health Act of 1873 were taken in three cases. In one instance the summons was allowed to be withdrawn, as the work was proceeded with and completed in due course. In the other two cases orders were made by the Magistrates for the work to be done. These orders, however, have not been complied with, and further proceedings are contemplated to be taken to enforce compliance.

6.—Chemical and Bacteriological Work.

Beyond the systematic examination of throat swabs in suspicious cases for Diphtheria Bacilli, no chemical or bacteriological work has been carried out for your Council during the year.

7.—Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.

There are 62 workshops in your district registered under this Act, and these have been frequently inspected.

During the year the Factory Inspector reported as follows :—

AT FACTORIES :—

- (a) Want of a sanitary convenience.
- (b) The dirty and insufficient number of w.c.'s.

AT WORKSHOPS :—

- (a) Want of a sanitary convenience.
- (b) Want of screen to w.c. used by the female sex.
- (c) Dirty condition of w.c.
- (d) Dirty condition of two workshops.

These have all received attention and the conditions complained of remedied.

HOUSING.

I.—General Housing Conditions in the District.

(1) General Housing Conditions.

These are in many instances far from satisfactory, particularly as regards those held on the life-tenure system, and especially where, in many instances, there is only one old life remaining on the property.

(2) (a)—Extent of Shortage or Excess of Houses.

There is at present a shortage of houses, but the extent is difficult to determine. It was thought last year that about another 100 houses would be required to remedy this shortage, but if the present great depression in the tin mining and engineering industries continues it is probable that

many families will emigrate abroad or remove to other districts, and the present shortage will thus be automatically remedied.

(b) **Measures Taken or Contemplated to Meet any Shortage.**

No measures involving any financial outlay by your Council are contemplated or warranted until such time as the main industries return to their normal condition. Private enterprise is not likely to be of any assistance during the present period of acute depression.

(3) **Information as to any important changes in population during the year or anticipated in the future.**

The population is likely to considerably decrease if the industrial outlook does not improve.

II.—Overcrowding.

(1) **Extent.**

Overcrowding undoubtedly exists, but not to the extent that formerly obtained. The use of the same bedrooms by both sexes is one of the results of such overcrowding.

(2) **Causes.**

The crowding of large families into small cottages owing to the preponderance of two-roomed and three-roomed houses. The poorer classes are unable to pay the higher rent demanded for larger houses. There has been no speculative building by private builders in recent years, nor is there likely to be any under existing conditions.

(3) **Measures taken or contemplated for dealing with Overcrowding.**

The Council's Housing Scheme is held in abeyance, and there is no justification for proceeding with the same under present circumstances.

(4) **Principal Cases of Overcrowding during the year and action taken.**

Three complaints were received as to alleged overcrowding during the year. In two cases the families removed to larger houses, whilst in the remaining case extra rooms in the same house were put into use as bedrooms.

III.—Fitness of Houses.

(1) (a)—General Standard of Housing in the District.

The general standard of housing in the district is not of a high order, particularly as regards sanitary conditions.

(b) General Character of the defects found to exist in unfit houses.

Defective condition of drains and want of water closets. Dampness of walls chiefly due to want of proper spouting for conveyance of water from roofs of houses. Dampness of the foundations owing to want of proper damp-proof courses. Insufficient paving of back yards.

(c) How far defects are due to the lack of proper management and supervision by owners.

Defects are largely due to this cause. The owners hesitate to expend any further outlay on old houses, many of which are held on the life-tenure system, with the probability of their soon reverting to the ground landlord

(2) General action taken as regards unfit houses under

(a) The Public Health Acts.

Chief action has been taken under these Acts to remedy the insanitary conditions complained of. 207 Preliminary Notices were served, and in 40 cases Statutory Notices. These had mainly to do with necessary repairs, external and internal, defects of drainage and provision of water closets.

(b) The Housing Acts.

No action has been taken under these Acts.

(3) Difficulties in remedying unfitness, etc.

The difficulties in remedying unfitness are mainly the present high cost of materials and labour, and the insecurity of tenure on the life system. In several instances arrangements have been made for the gradual carrying out of repairs. No special action has been taken to secure improved management of property by owners. There are many back-to-back houses, and though the evils of these are recognised, no special action has been taken to deal with these owing to the lack of other accommodation.

- (4) The conditions, so far as they affect housing, as regards water supply, closet accommodation and refuse disposal.

These have been fully dealt with in a previous part of this report.

IV.—Unhealthy Areas.

No action has been taken during the year as regards unhealthy areas.

V.—Bye-laws relating to Houses, etc.

The following Bye-laws dealing with these matters are in existence in your district:—

New Streets and Buildings.
Common Lodging Houses.
Nuisances.

These greatly need revision.

VI.—General and Miscellaneous.

Three houses at Troon were demolished voluntarily. Two houses at the back of Albert Street, two at Mildren's Court, and one at Brea were closed after intimation by your authority as to their unfitness for human habitation.

APPENDICES.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

Statistics—Year ended 31st December, 1920.

1.—General.

(1) Estimated population	...	...	...	...	14,918
(2) General death-rate	...	...	...	...	13.80
(3) Death-rate from tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	1.87
(4) Infantile mortality	...	...	...	...	67
(5) Number of dwelling-houses of all classes	...	...	...	...	3,807
(6) Number of working-class dwelling-houses	...	...	...	...	3,596
(7) Number of new working-class houses erected	...	...	...	...	1

2.—Unfit Dwelling-Houses.

I.—Inspection.

(1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	819
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	93
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	7
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	81

II.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	99
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III.—Action under Statutory Powers.

A.—Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) by owners	nil
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners ...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ...	nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	199
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(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied—

(a) by owners	70
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	...				nil
(c) Partly carried out	...	...	...	...	35
(d) Closed pending repairs	...	...	...	...	3
(e) Closed entirely	...	...	...	...	3
(f) Demolished	...	...	...	...	3

C.—Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	...	...	...	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit	...	...	...	nil
(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	nil
(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	nil

3.—Unhealthy Areas.

Areas represented to the Local Authority with a view to Improvement Schemes under (a), Part I., or (b), Part II., of the Act of 1890:—

(1) Name of area	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(2) Acreage	...	...	...	...	...	nil
(3) Number of working-class houses in area	...					nil
(4) Number of working-class persons to be displaced	...					nil

4 —Number of houses not complying with the building bye-laws erected with the consent of Local Authority under section 25 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919

...	nil
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5.—Staff engaged on housing work with, briefly, the duties of each officer. There is no special staff detailed for housing work, but the Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector carry out the duties of general inspection.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J. TELFER THOMAS,
Medical Officer of Health.

Camborne, May 6th, 1921.

